

REMARKS

Claims 1–20 are pending in the present application.

Claims 2 and 12 were amended for clarity.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph (Definiteness)

Claims 2–9 and 12–17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2 and 12 were amended to correct the errors identified in the Office Action.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 2–9 and 12–17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph has been overcome.

35 U.S.C. § 102 (Anticipation)

Claims 10–13 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,091,729 to *Dove*. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. MPEP § 2131 at p. 2100-73 (8th ed. rev. 2 May 2004).

Amended independent claim 10 recites that the high tier bus comprises one or more serial links. Such a feature is not found in the cited reference. The cited cell bus disclosed in *Dove* includes eight parallel bits or signal lines. *Dove*, column 4, lines 24–27, column 7, lines 47–48.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 10–13 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 has been overcome.

35 U.S.C. § 103 (Obviousness)

Claims 1–4 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,760,327 to *Manchester et al* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,560,219 to *Tabu et al*. Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Manchester et al* in view of *Tabu et al* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,512,769 to *Chui et al*. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Manchester et al* in view of *Tabu et al* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,047,348 to *Lentz et al*. Claims 7–8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Manchester et al* in view of *Tabu et al*. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Manchester et al* in view of *Tabu et al* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,355,090 to *Pajowski et al*. Claims 14–16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dove*. Claims 18–19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Manchester et al* in view of *Tabu et al* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,416,776 to *Panzarella et al*. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In *ex parte* examination of patent applications, the Patent Office bears the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. MPEP § 2142, p. 2100-128 (8th ed. rev. 2 May

2004). Absent such a *prima facie* case, the applicant is under no obligation to produce evidence of nonobviousness. *Id.*

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met: First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. *Id.*

Amended independent claims 1 and 20 each recite that the low tier comprises a cell-based bus while the high tier comprises one or more serial links. Such a feature is not found in the cited references. *Manchester et al* teaches a low-speed TDM bus 70 comprising point-to-point serial links and a high-speed ATM (cell-based) bus 72. *Manchester et al*, column 8, lines 19–47. The structure disclosed in *Manchester et al* is thus opposite that recited in the claims.

Claims 2–9 and 18–19 depend from claim 1, and therefore include the limitation(s) identified above. Such a feature or combination of features is also not found in the remaining cited references.

Amended independent claim 10 recites that the high tier bus comprises one or more serial links. Claims 14–16 depend from claim 10, and therefore include the limitation(s) identified above. Such a feature is not found in the cited reference. The cited cell bus disclosed in *Dove* is not a high

speed serial link as asserted in the Office Action, but instead includes eight parallel bits or signal lines. *Dove*, column 4, lines 24–27, column 7, lines 47–48.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1–9, 14–16 and 18–19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome.

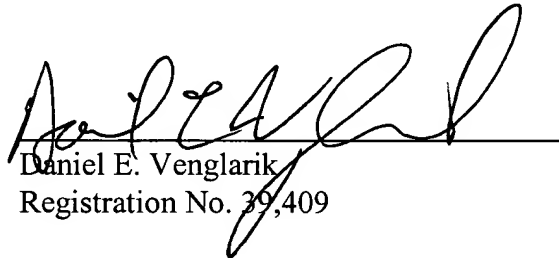
If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *dvenglarik@davismunck.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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